

Implementing a Nationwide	)	PS Docket 06-229
Broadband, Interoperable Public	)	DA 10-1877
Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band	)	

**Comments of  
The Region 35 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee**

**December 3, 2010**

The REGION 35 700 MHZ REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE submits these comments in response to the September 28, 2010 Public Notice released by the Federal Communications Commission seeking comment on whether to permit flexible use of the 700 MHz narrowband spectrum for broadband use.

The REGION 35 700 MHZ REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE strongly opposes any further reorganization of the 700 MHz band for two main reasons: 1) there is a keen demand for narrowband 700 MHz spectrum for the expansion of mission-critical voice systems and 2) with thirty-five 700 MHz Regional Plans approved, four completed 700 MHz Plans pending at the FCC and several Region-approved plans in the adjacent regions concurrence phase, the contemplated Commission action would require those plans to be re-written—some for a second time.

The 700 MHz narrowband allocation must remain narrowband with no flexible option for broadband operations into that spectrum. The 700 MHz band became fully available in the major metropolitan areas only about a year ago. Since that time, several Regional Plans have been approved and agencies are filing applications to deploy 700 MHz narrowband networks. Since their 700 MHz Plans were approved, agencies in California,

Florida, Texas, and Illinois have begun filing applications and have been granted licenses for 700 MHz narrowband systems. In Region 35, the Linn-Benton County system will be the first agency in Oregon to receive a 700 MHz license for general use frequencies. Their license is pending FCC approval. TriMET, the Portland Oregon transit authority has started to build out a 700 MHz trunked system. TriMet's application has been approved by Region 35 and is in the process of being submitted to the FCC. The same holds true for the City of Portland, Oregon, their approved application for 700 MHz frequencies is also being submitted to the FCC. And finally the State of Oregon has issued an intent to award a contract to a major vendor for a statewide 700 MHz system. These applications demonstrate the genuine need for 700 MHz narrowband spectrum to satisfy a pent-up demand of, in some cases, over 10 years. The 800 MHz band has been unavailable in the major metropolitan areas for ten to fifteen years in some cases. The 700 MHz band is the only option agencies in densely populated cities and suburban areas have if they wish to deploy mission-critical voice systems.

Agencies that have begun planning for the deployment of 700 MHz narrowband systems don't need the threat of possible FCC action derailing those plans. Agencies need regulatory certainty in order to finalize their plans. The Commission must stop proposing rule changes in the 700 MHz narrowband spectrum.

With the majority of the 700 MHz Regional Planning Committees (RPCs) having completed their 700 MHz Regional Plans at a cost of many hours of dedicated service by volunteers with full-time "regular" jobs, the FCC must not enact any regulations that

would require these plans to be re-written, in some cases for a second time. Regional Plans filed or approved prior to the FCC's 2007 band reorganization of the 700 MHz band had to be re-written to match the new band plan resulting in licensing delays and expenditure of effort.

In summary, the REGION 35 700 MHZ REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE opposes the introduction of flexibility into the narrowband 700 MHz spectrum. It should and must be retained for mission-critical voice communications so that agencies throughout the nation have much-needed spectrum to expand existing or implement new systems.

Respectfully,

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